

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION***(please fill in the highlighted areas)***I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

- A. Applicant Name: Oxbow Cattle Co
- B. Mailing Address: 10950 Oral Zumwalt Way
- C. City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59803
- Telephone: 406-529-3881 E-mail: oxbowcattleco@gmail.com
- D. Contact Person: Bart Morris
- Address if different from Applicant: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Mark Reiling (landowner)
- Mailing Address: 1201 S. Cedar Lake Rd
- City: Minneapolis State: MN Zip: 55416
- Telephone: 612-670-7294 E-mail: mreiling@iret.com

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Sapphire Ranch riparian fencing
- River, stream, or lake: Bitterroot River
- Location: Township: T11N Range: R20W Section: 12, 13 & 24
- Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ *within project (decimal degrees)*
- County: Missoula
- B. Purpose of Project:
- Convert existing riparian fence to wildlife friendly fence, maintain and improve washed out & dilapidated sections of riparian fence, and build new riparian fence on east side of river.
- C. Brief Project Description: _____

1. Convert original Future Fisheries riparian fence from wildlife barrier into wildlife friendly fence. Top & bottom wires converted to smooth and placed at 42 & 18 inches. Put up drop clips on posts to move top wire down and bottom wire up when cattle are not in pastures, which will be 8-10 months of the year.
2. Repair & maintain riparian fence along west shore of Bitterroot in section 24 that has washed out in various spots to keep cattle off of highly erodible banks. Also convert fence to wildlife friendly as above.
3. In section 12 build new wildlife friendly fence along eastside of Bitterroot River to keep cattle off of riverbanks and help with managing upland grasses.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 4 miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 7,035.60

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ 7,035.60 In-kind \$ 3,200.00
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 9,974.40

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

West slope Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown trout, Mountain Whitefish, Pike Minnow and various other nongame species.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

It will keep livestock off of highly erodible banks, keep livestock out of Bitterroot River where manure and urine is deposited and assist with grazing management to enhance the riparian area overall which will enhance all wildlife habitat not just fisheries.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes. By keeping livestock off of banks and out of the river it will keep banks in tact maintaining better habitat and will also give the hundreds of float fishing folks a wilderness experience by not seeing livestock or the negative impacts of them on the stream banks and rivers.

- D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

No. The Bitterroot River in this area has unlimited access to float fishing in this section and wade fishing for folks with access to the state sections and high water mark.

- E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

5 years

- F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

There is not serious habitat degradation yet, but without proper fencing the degradation will continue to increase over time.

- G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

Maintain and improve upon the wild experience of fishing the lower Bitterroot River by keeping livestock off of and out of the river. This section of the river is the wildest and largest intact section north of Hamilton and south of Missoula. It is just a few miles south of Missoula and is the home to wild fish, river otters, elk, deer, bears, wolves, neotropical migrants, waterfowl and many more.

- H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No

- I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

- J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

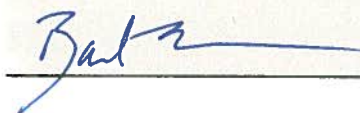
No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:



Date:

Nov. 28, 2014

Sponsor (if applicable):

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

**E-mail To: Michelle McGree
mmcgree@mt.gov**

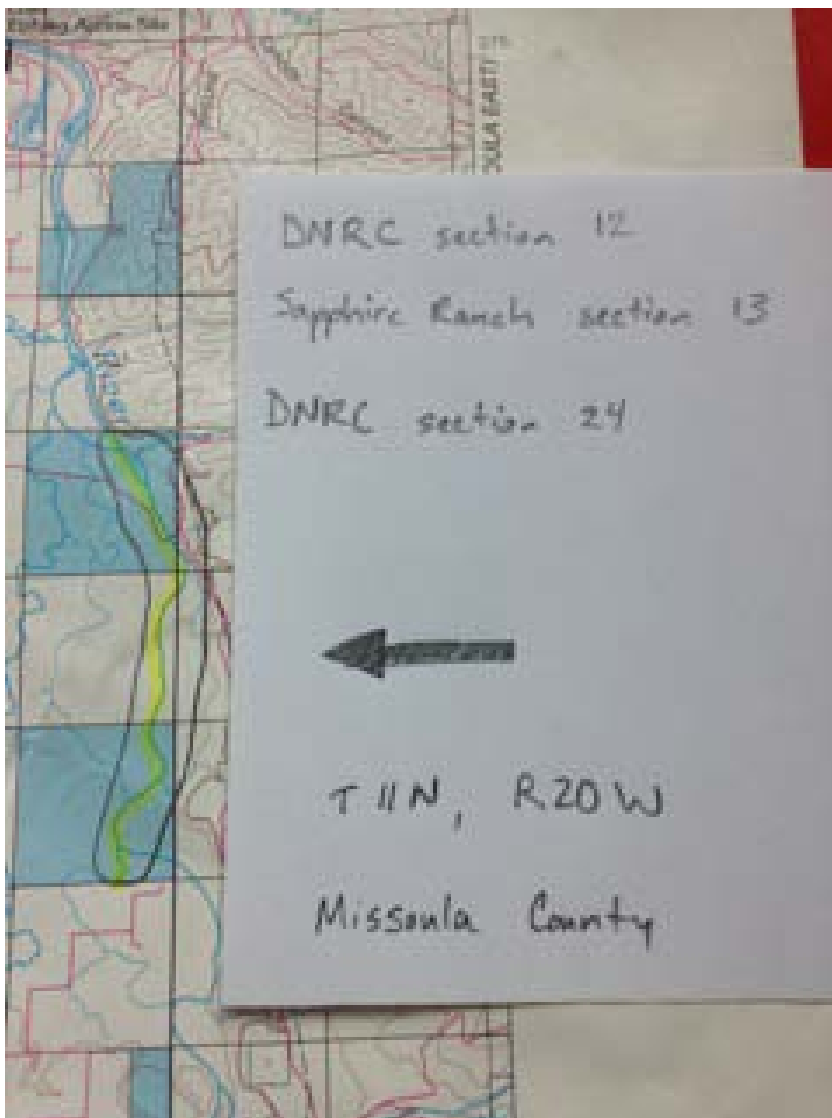
Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

*Units = feet, hours, inches, lump sum, etc.

[illegible]



November 28th, 2014

Mark Reiling
Owner, Sapphire Ranch
1201 S Cedar Lake Rd
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Ms. McGree,

This is a letter of support for the proposed Future Fisheries project on my Ranch, the Sapphire Ranch in Missoula County. The project is proposed by Bart & Wendy Morris, owners of Oxbow Cattle Co. that lease my ranch to graze their cattle. They also sublease from me the two DNRC sections that are part of this proposal.

This project will enhance my property for wildlife and fisheries by modifying the already current riparian fence to a wildlife friendly fence, repairing portions of this fence in section 24 that have not been maintained and washed out by the river and by constructing a new fence on the east side to keep cattle off of and out of the Bitterroot River.

If Bart & Wendy were awarded this grant it would maintain the healthy riparian area my ranch has and allow for responsible cattle grazing in adjacent uplands. It would take a fence that is a barrier to wildlife currently and allow for free movement for the hundreds of wild animals that use my place and this untouched river bottom habitat. Over all this would be a win/win situation for wildlife and agriculture, a great thing. It would also benefit the recreationalists that I allow to use my land and that float through it. I am currently enrolled in MT FWP's Block Management program and in addition to that allow numerous fishermen and hunters to use my land. Many recreationalists float through the scenic, undeveloped portion of my land and access both DNRC sections that I lease.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Reiling
Owner, Sapphire Ranch